GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:19
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2016
Non-NET Fellowships
Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the announcement made by the University Grants Commission (UGC) about discontinuance of non-National Eligibility Test (NET) fellowships for M.Phil. and Ph.D. students;

(b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to tackle the anger amongst students belonging to various universities and the countrywide agitation held by them against the said decision;

(c) the details of the action taken against the Delhi University Teachers "Association and other Teachers" Associations who came out in support of the said agitation;

(d) whether the Government has received any demand from any student organisation for raising the amount of scholarships; and

(e) if so, whether the said demand is also likely to be considered in conjunction with the NET issue and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): The non-National Eligibility Test (NET) fellowships for M.Phil. and PhD. have not been discontinued. The University Grants Commission (UGC) had, in its 510th meeting held on 7th October, 2015, considered the report of its Expert Committee for framing guidelines and also for considering enhancement of non-National Eligibility Test (NET) fellowships and resolved to discontinue the scheme. The Central Government directed the UGC on 28th October, 2015 not to implement the Commission's decision discontinuing the Non-NET fellowships and to continue all existing and continuing fellowships, NET as well as Non-NET. It was decided that the existing awards under Non-NET fellowships will not be reduced rather expanded and that guidelines for selection, coverage, award and administration of Non-NET fellowships be developed to enable an enhancement in these fellowships.

The Government appointed a Committee on 28th October, 2015, under the chairpersonship of Prof. Gautam Barua, former Director, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati to go into the issues related to the research fellowships provided by the UGC, covering both NET fellowships and Non-NET fellowships. The details of the committee are available at http://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/ ReviewUGCFellowships.pdf .

(c): No such action has been taken by the Government against Teachers' Association.

(d) & (e): The Terms of Reference of the Committee under the chairpersonship of Prof. Gautam Barua include recommending guidelines for the selection, coverage, award, and administration of the non-NET fellowships. The report of the Committee is awaited.

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